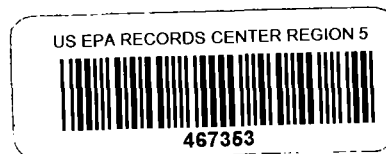


2)
5/22/00
LETTER REPORT
FOR
J.E. BERGER
DETROIT, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
TDD: S05-0004-005
PAN: 050A0501SIXX

May 22, 2000

Prepared for:

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Emergency Response Branch
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604



Prepared by: Nancy M. Smith
Nancy M. Smith, START Project Manager

Date: 5/22/00

Reviewed by: L. L. Elliott for
Barbara Critchlow, E&E Technical Editor

Date: 5/25/00

Approved by: Cheryl L. Elliott
Cheryl Elliott, Assistant START Program Manager

Date: 5/25/00



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May 22, 2000

Ms. Gail Nabasny
START Project Officer
Emergency Support Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: J.E. Berger
Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan
TDD: S05-0004-005
PAN: 050A0501SIXX

Dear Ms. Nabasny:

On April 14, 2000, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) tasked the Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E & E), Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START), under Technical Direction Document (TDD) S05-0004-005, to perform a site assessment at the J.E. Berger (JEB) site in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. The START members conducting assessment activities under the direction of U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Robert Buckley were Nancy Smith, Jeff Lippert, and Mike Steffan. Photodocumentation is presented in Attachment A.

The JEB site is located at 5300 Bellevue Street, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan (latitude 42°22'26.7"N, longitude 83°01'40.4"W) (Attachment B, Figure 1). The JEB site is a former Superfund cleanup site that consists of a small portion of a series of interconnecting, abandoned warehouses that were formerly part of the Packard Automobile Plant. The JEB site is located in a residential/industrial area of Detroit. The portion of the warehouse complex housing the former Superfund site is bordered to the east by Concord Street, on the north by connecting warehouses, on the west by Bellevue Street, and on the south by Frederick Street (Attachment B, Figure 2).

On April 14, 2000, U.S. EPA OSC Robert Buckley and START mobilized to the JEB site to perform a site assessment. Seventy-five 55-gallon drums, in fair condition, labeled as light molasses, corn syrup, and peanut oil were found in the Champion Paper and Polybags Company area located north of the JEB site. Two empty 55-gallon drums were found at JEB, and one partially full 55-gallon drum was found in the Torq Electric Company area. START opened the accessible drums and screened the headspace for volatile organic compounds using a photoionization detector (PID). PID readings ranged from 0 to 62 units above background. START collected samples from seven drums containing materials that were representative of the contents of the 76 drums and conducted hazard categorization testing on the samples. Hazard categorization test results indicated that the drums contained mostly water-soluble neutral liquids, and non-flammable oils (Attachment C). START investigated a chamber located under the floor in the Detroit Reclaimed Brick area. It contained conduit and appeared to be an electrical vault.

Based upon site assessment observations and hazard categorization results, conditions at the site pose no threat to public health or the environment. No further action is recommended at this site.

The preparation of this Letter Report, with included attachments, completes the tasks specified by this TDD. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact our office at (734) 946-0900.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "N" and a clear "Smith" at the end.

Nancy M. Smith
START Project Manager

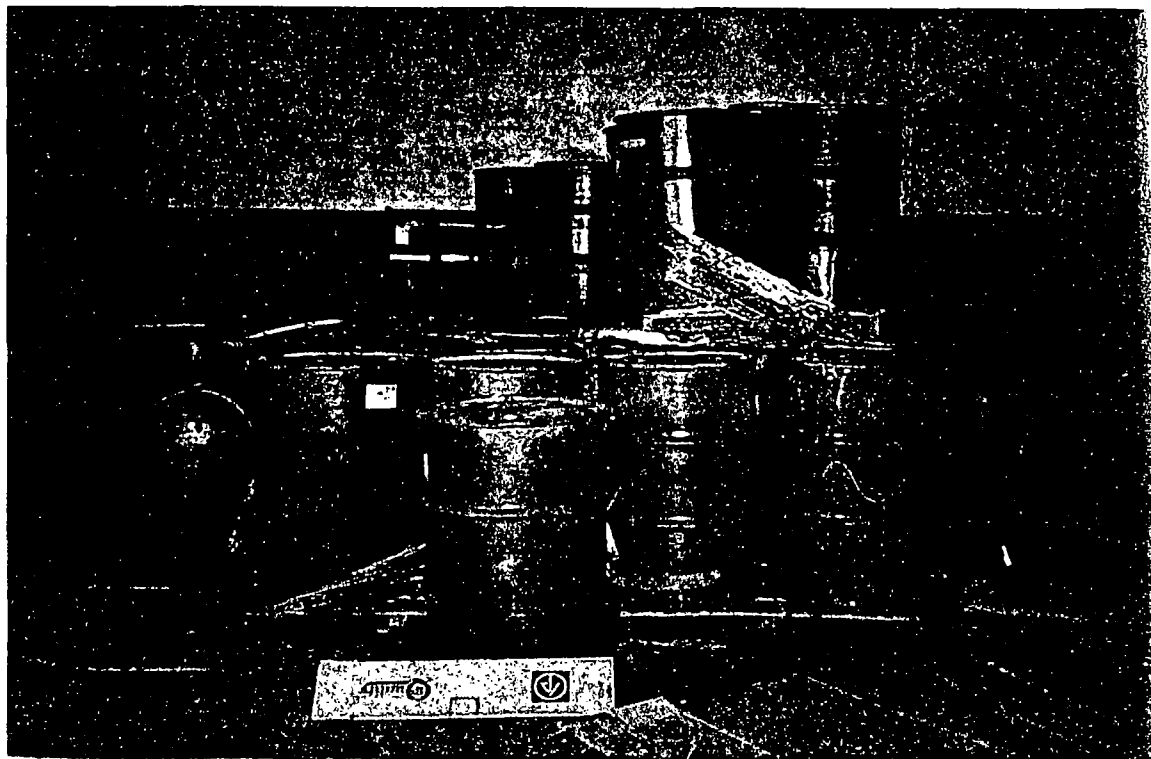
Cheryl L. Elliott
Assistant START Program Manager

Attachments:

- A - Photodocumentation
- B - Site Illustrations
- C - Summary of Hazard Categorization Testing

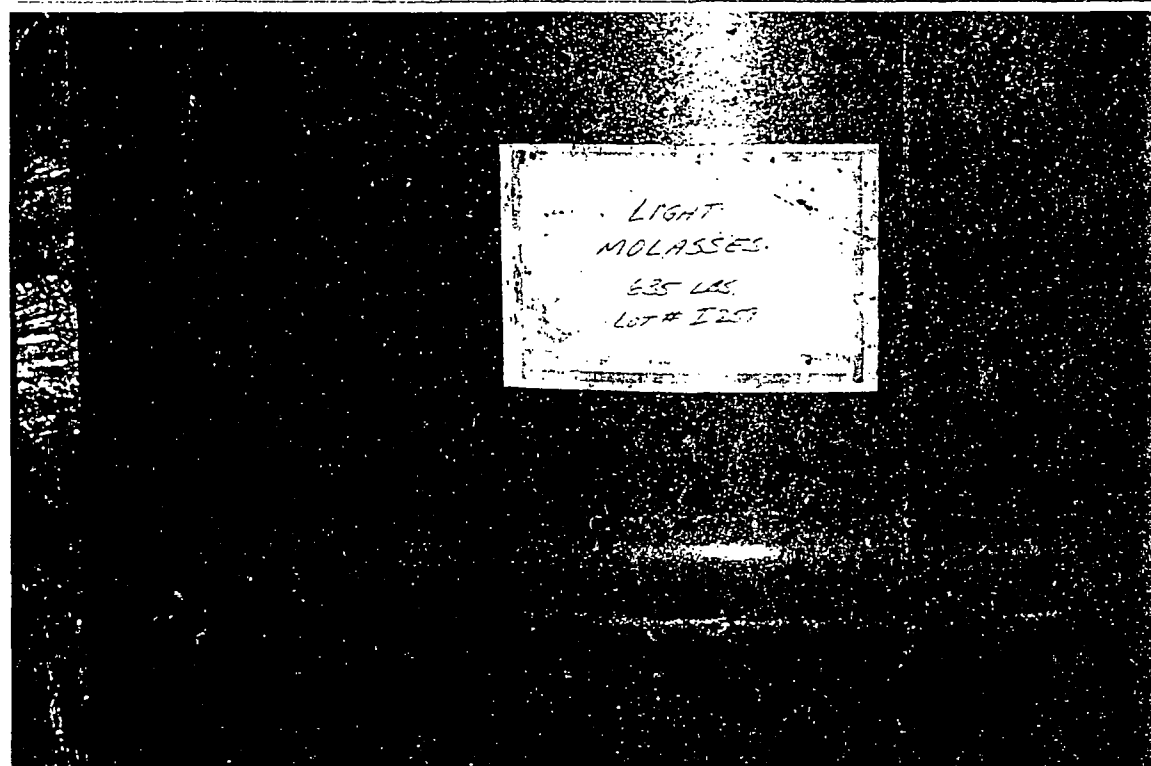
Attachment A

Photodocumentation



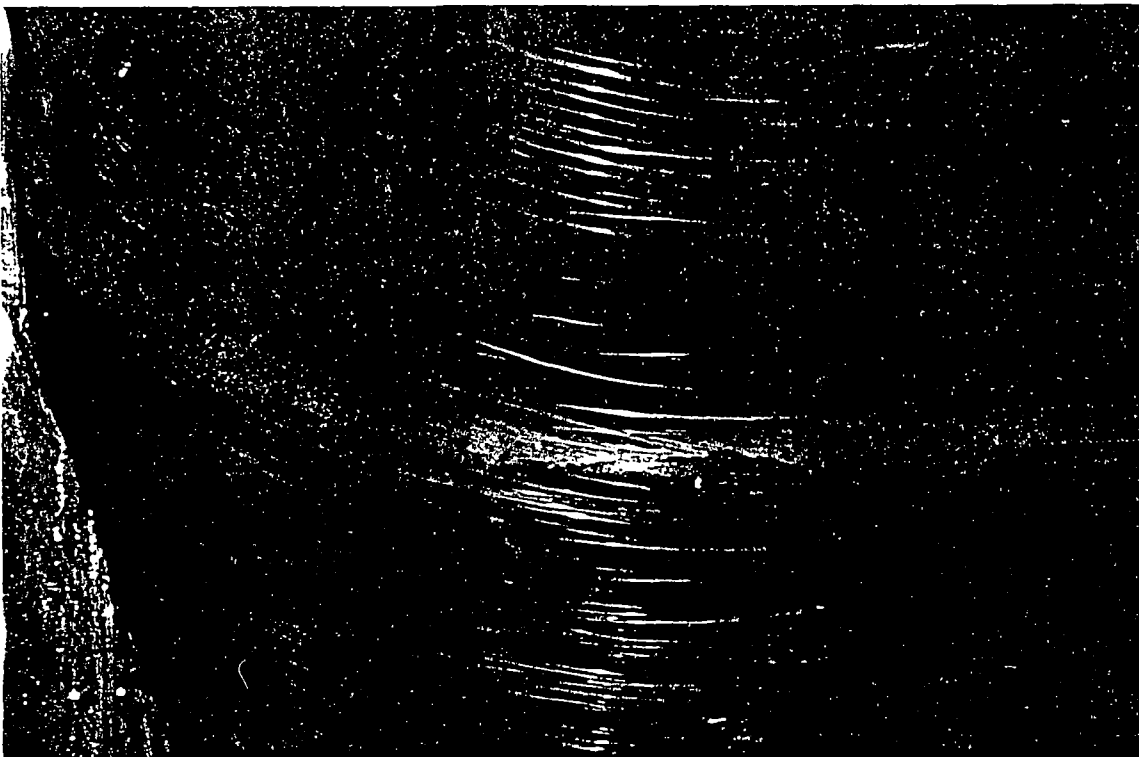
Site: J.E. Berger
Photo No: 1(R1F0)
Direction: North
Photographer: Smith

Date: April 14, 2000
Subject: A view of seventy-five 55-gallon drums located in the Champion Paper and Polybags Company area.



Site: J.E. Berger
Photo No: 2 (R1F1)
Direction: East
Photographer: Smith

Date: April 14, 2000
Subject: A view of a drum labeled as light molasses.



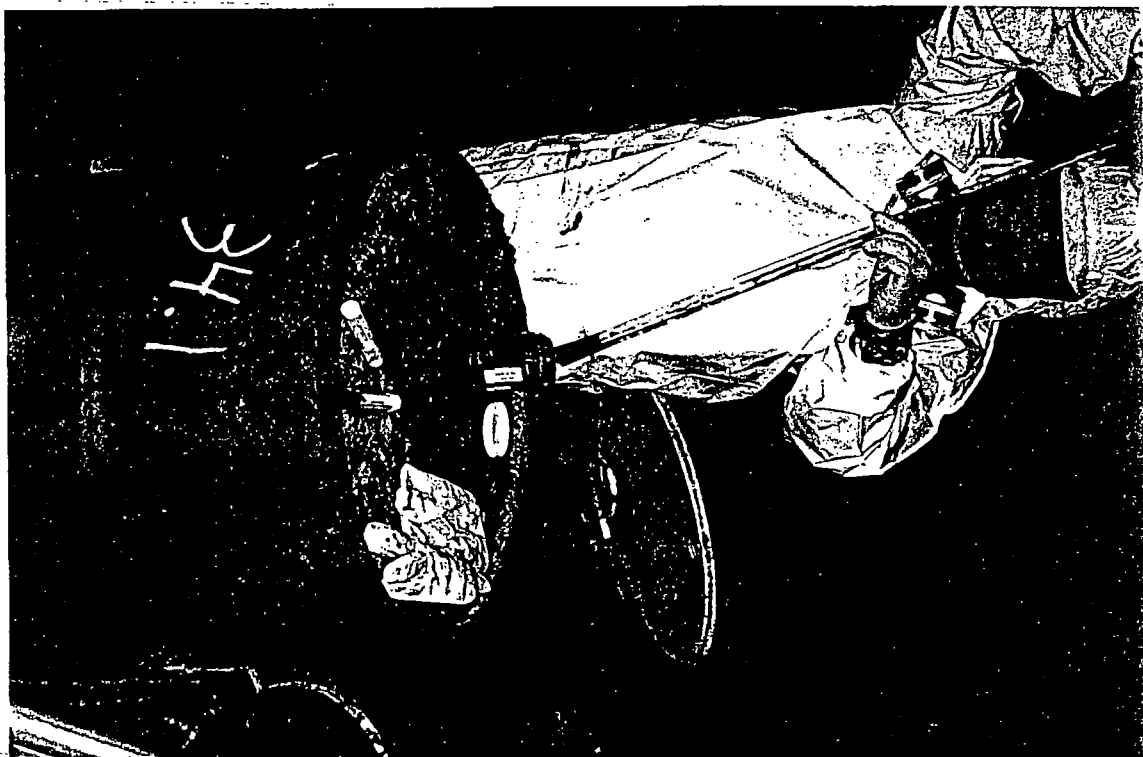
Site: J.E. Berger
Photo No: 3 (R1F23)
Direction: West
Photographer: Smith

Date: April 14, 2000
Subject: A view of a drum marked as peanut oil.



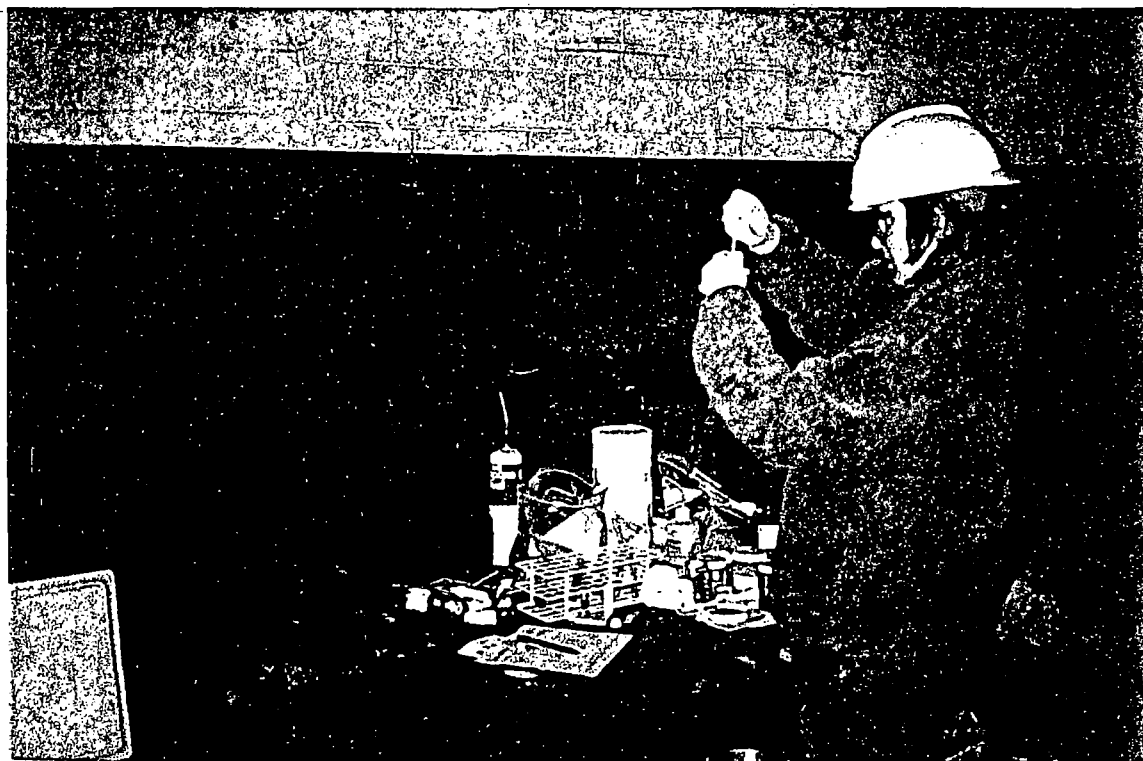
Site: J.E. Berger
Photo No: 4 (R1F5)
Direction: North
Photographer: Smith

Date: April 14, 2000
Subject: START conducting air monitoring at drum opening.



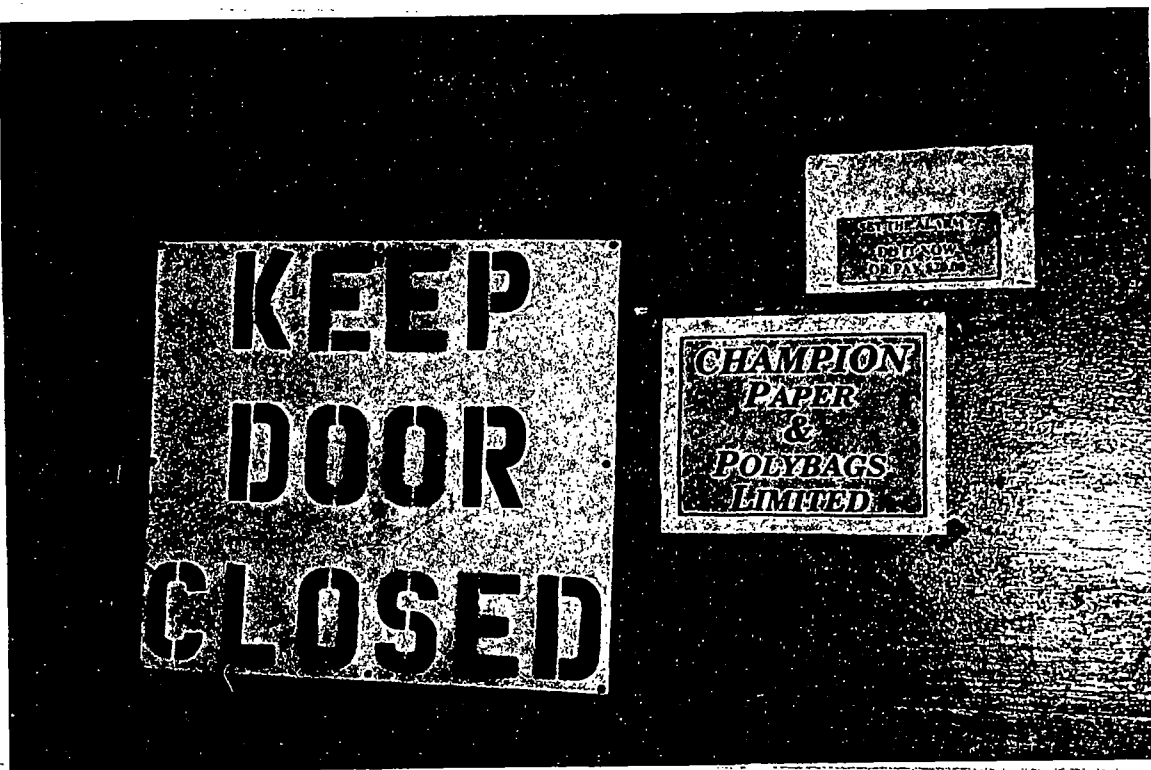
Site: J.E. Berger
Photo No: 5 (R1F9)
Direction: North
Photographer: Smith

Date: April 14, 2000
Subject: START collecting a sample from drum labeled as light molasses.



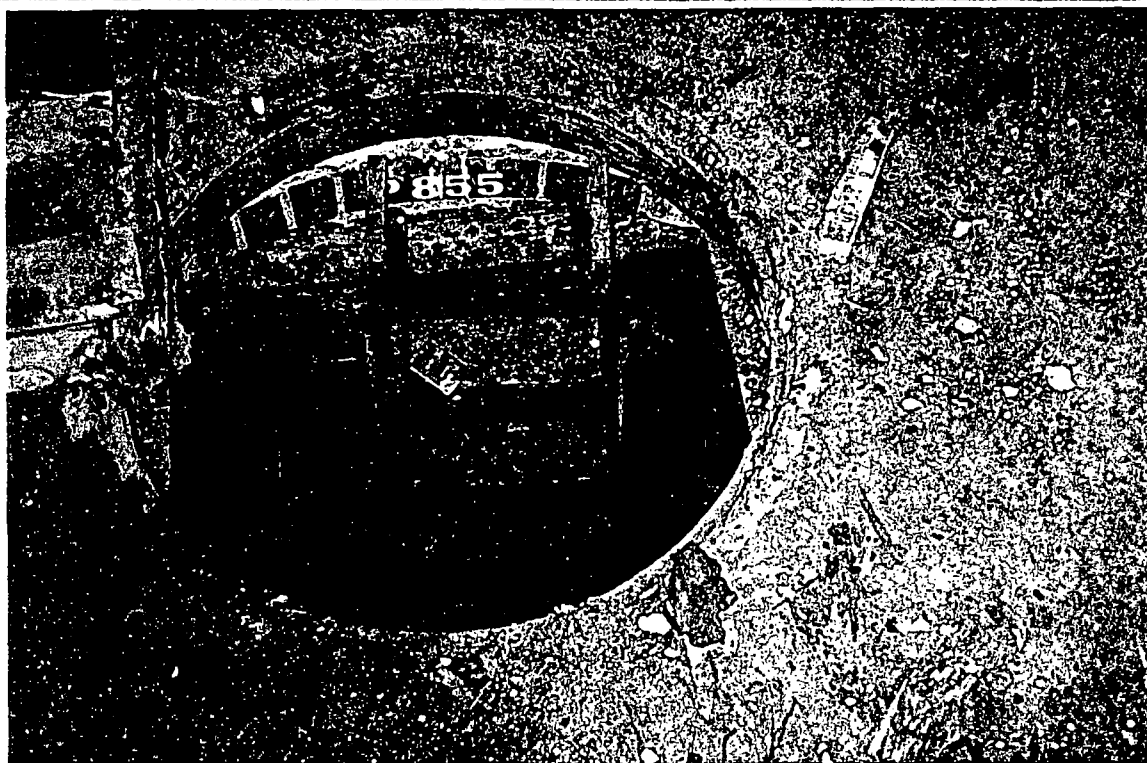
Site: J.E. Berger
Photo No: 6 (R1F13)
Direction: West
Photographer: Lippert

Date: April 14, 2000
Subject: START conducting hazard categorization testing on drum samples.



Site: J.E. Berger
Photo No: 7 (R1F19)
Direction: East
Photographer: Smith

Date: April 14, 2000
Subject: A view of the door to the area where the drums were located.



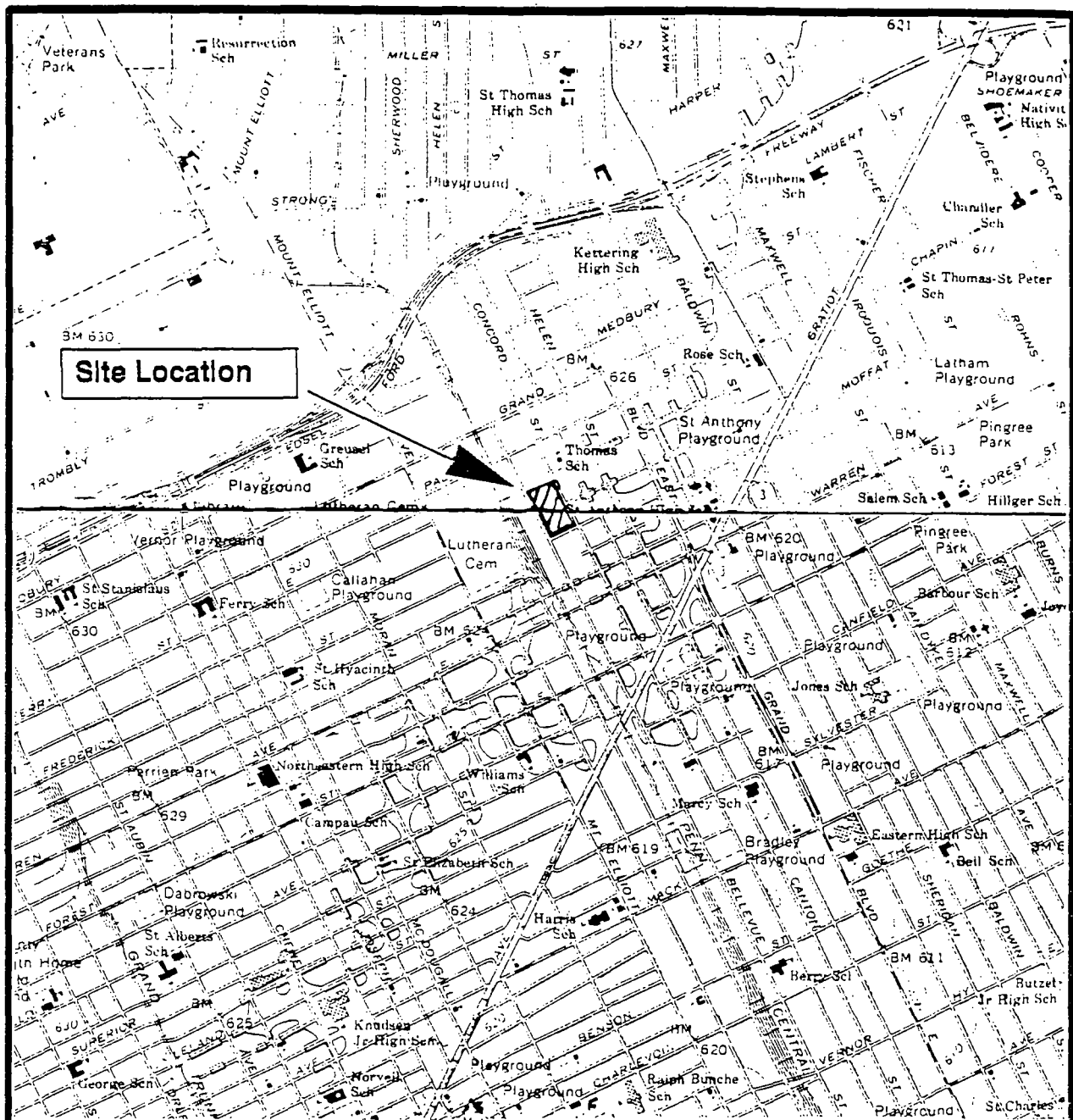
Site: J.E. Berger
Photo No: 8 (R1F22)
Direction: East
Photographer: Lippert

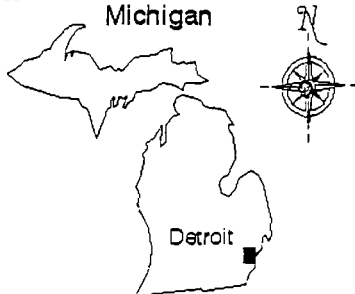

Date: April 14, 2000
Subject: A view of the entrance to the electrical vault located in the Detroit Reclaimed Brick area.

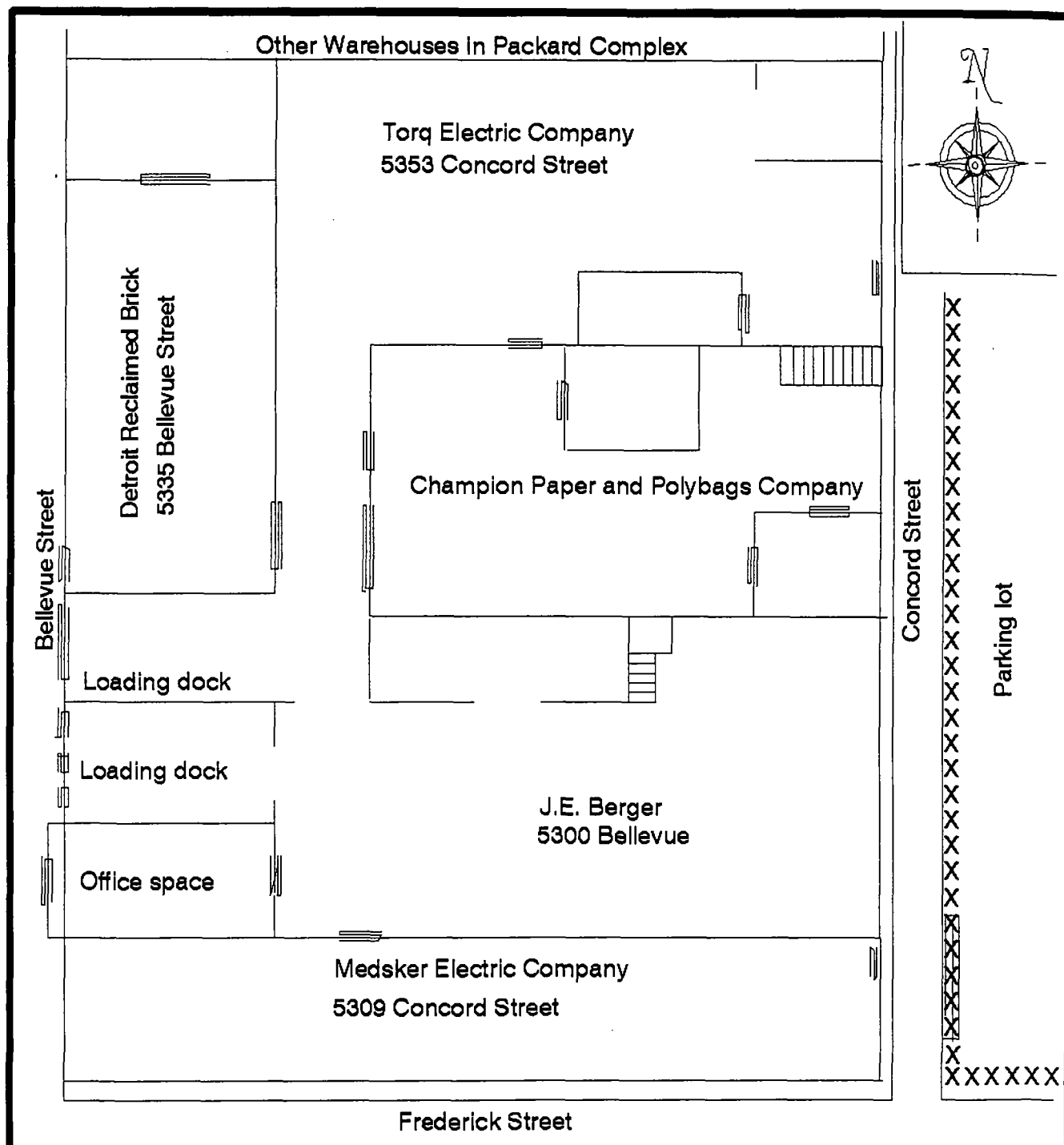
B

Attachment B

Site Illustrations



	 ecology and environment, inc. Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team Region 5		
<p>SOURCE/DATE USGS 7.5 Minute Series Topographical Maps, Detroit, MI 1981/Higland Park, MI 1983 Quadrangles</p>	TITLE	Site Location Map	FIGURE 1
	SITE	J.E. Berger Site Assessment	SCALE 1:24,000
	CITY	Detroit	STATE Michigan



LEGEND

Doors

Stairs

Fence



ecology and environment, inc.

Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team
Region 5

TITLE
Site Features Map

FIGURE
2

SITE
J.E. Berger

SCALE
Not to scale

CITY
Detroit

STATE
Michigan

TDD
S05-0004-005

Attachment C

Summary of Hazard Categorization Testing

Table 1

Summary of Hazard Categorization Testing
J.E. Berger Site, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan
April 14, 2000

Sample #	Labels/Markings	Description	Water Solubility	Hexane Solubility	pH	Oxidizer	Flammability	PID (Units)
Drum 1	light molasses	dark brown, sticky, viscous liquid	soluble	insoluble	6	negative	negative	15.1
Drum 2	none	dark brown, sticky, viscous liquid	soluble	insoluble	5	negative	negative	34.1
Drum 3	none	light yellow, viscous liquid/solid	soluble	insoluble	6	negative	negative	37.9
Drum 4	high fructose corn syrup	yellow liquid	soluble	insoluble	4	negative	negative	0.0
Drum 5	none	white solids/liquid	soluble	partially soluble	4-5	negative	negative	0.0
Drum 6	none	yellow, viscous, sticky liquid	insoluble	insoluble	6	negative	negative	60.2
Drum 7	Dolph's Hitherm BC 346-A, Flammable Liquid, contains xylene and naphtha	tan, clear liquid	soluble	insoluble	6	negative	negative	26.0

Key: PID = Photoionization Detector